

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DeLay, Tom (Republican)  
Representative, 22nd District, Texas  
Elected 1984 to 99th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Laredo, Texas -- 8 April 1947  
Home: Sugar Land, Texas  
Marital status: Married (Christine) - one child  
Religion: Baptist  
Education: Baylor U., 1965-67; U. of Houston, B.S., 1970  
Military: None  
Profession: Pest control business owner  
Political: TX House, 1979-85. Succeeded Rep Ron Paul (R), who ran unsuccessfully for the US

Senate, winning the 1984 race with 64% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 60% of the votes and in 2002 with 63%.

Rep DeLay is characterized as a "down-the-line conservative" who openly acknowledged his ambitions for party leadership slots at the outset of his congressional career.

In the 101st Congress, he complained that, under terms of the 1990 budget agreement, defense would bear 100% of the reductions in discretionary spending during the first 3 years. Rep DeLay supported funds for building the base at Croton, NY.

In the 103d Congress, proposed legislation to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act. Supported the space station. Criticized the administration, stating it did not understand what military power is and in what way it should be used. Successfully ran to succeed Rep Gingrich in the GOP whip slot, a role he assumed in the 104th Congress and maintained through the 107th Congress.

In the 106th Congress, offered amdt to DoD Auth pertaining to limitation on military-to-military exchanges with the China's People's Liberation Army. Said he would not support "this charade in the Balkans." Asked "How can you call it a success when Milosevic is still in power?" Supported an amdt that sought to protect the identity of both current and former covert intelligence officers. Introduced the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act. Noting that the Sec/Def last year opposed sending troops to Kosovo and the Joint Chiefs warned that military strength has already been compromised, cited fighter planes being cannibalized for parts, shortages of cruise missiles, and pilot shortages in the Navy and Air Force. Sponsored a bill to increase US military support for Taiwan. Commenting on the release of the Cox report and the US relationship with China, asserted "the Clinton administration has consistently put the security of the US at risk."

In the 107th Congress, Rep DeLay established the American Servicemembers' Protection Act (ASPA) via an amendment to the FY 02-03 Foreign Relations Authorization bill. The intent of the ASPA is to ensure American citizens, particularly military personnel, are not prosecuted by the International Criminal Court for actions taken on behalf of the US Government unless the Senate ratifies the treaty establishing the court. Rep DeLay suggested it would be "an irony of the cruelest sort if the men and women America sends out to defend our Constitution were denied its protections." Elected by acclamation as Majority Leader of the 108th Congress.

AF Bases: Ellington ANGB

## COMMITTEES

MAJORITY LEADER (assumed position in the 108th Congress)

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on VA-HUD and Independent Agencies; Transportation